

Lafourche Gazette

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To The Editor:

Local oystermen and their families, seafood processors, restaurant owners and their customers should all be concerned about rules the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been asked to consider which will have a devastating effect on their ability to earn an income and support themselves.

If these rules are adopted, only "treated" or pasteurized oysters will be allowed to be sold for raw consumption. Traditional raw Louisiana oysters will be a thing of the past. Because the cost of treating oysters is very high, prices to restaurants and consumers will double. Consumer demand will drop. And, because oysters and shellfish from much of the rest of the nation are not subject to these rules, Louisiana oysters will be at a competitive disadvantage in the national market.

Too many of our local people engaged in oystering will suffer for these unnecessary rules to go into effect. That is why I have authored a resolution to be passed by the Parish Council urging FDA to keep its hands off our oysters.

Please join this important fight by writing FDA telling them to reject these rules and to allow consumers a choice between fresh oysters and treated ones. You may write FDA at: Dockets Management Branch HFA-305, Department of Health and Human Services, 5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

Sincerely,

Rod Toups
District 14 Councilman

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